(c) As the golden rice with Beta-Carotene rice endosperm has not yet been developed in indica background, the question of its popularization at this stage does not arise.

Foodgrain for Rajasthan as famine relief

†5109. DR. PRABHA THAKUR : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a large quantity of wheats or other foodgrains are available in the Central Food Stores;

(b) the quantum of foodgrains allocated to Rajasthan as famine relief, so far;

(c) whether any per capita limit is set for wheat to be provided by the Centre to famine affected States; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) to (d) Adequate quantities of wheat are available in the Central Pool. For the current drought in Rajasthan, 74 worst affected blocks in the State have universal coverage of all willing rural house-holds with one person from each house-hold getting employment for 10 days a month till July, 2003, @ 8 kg per person per day of foodgrains, with the balance between the cost of foodgrains and minimum wage being paid by the State Government in cash. All other blocks provide employment @ 6 kg per person per day, with other conditions remaining the same. On this basis, 21 lakh MTs have been allocated to the State for the period February to July, 2003.

KVKs in Karnataka

5110. DR. VIJAY MALLYA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Karnataka Government has approached the Central Government for financial assistance to set up eleven Krishi Vigyan Kendras;

(b) whether Karnataka Government has also requested for financial support to set up an Agricultural College in Bijapur District;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) in view of the need to set up such Kendras in the newly created Districts and Agriculture College in Bijapur whether the Central Government have considered the proposal; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) There are seven newly created districts in Karnataka. Out of which two districts are with existing Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVK) and one with existing Zonal Agricultural Research Station (ZARS) strengthened to take up the additional functions of KVK. Other four newly created districts are covered with the existing KVKs/ZARSs in the original districts from which these have been created.

Growth of GDP

5111. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Agriculture has recorded a negative growth in this fiscal year impacting the GDP and reducing it to 4.4 per cent against a large of 7 per cent; whether this has been attributed to a poor monsoon after thirteen years of normal rainfall; and

(b) if so, what are Government plans in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) According to the advance estimates released by the Central Statistical Organisation in the month of February, 2003 the growth of GDP in the year 2002-03 is 4.4 per cent as compared to 5.6 per cent in the previous year. The growth rate of Agriculture & Allied sectors in the year 2002-03 is estimated at (–) 3.1 per cent as compared to 5.7 per cent in the previous year. The share of Agriculture and Allied sectors in GDP being 24 per cent in the year 2001-02, the negative growth of the sector in 2002-03 has impacted the growth of GDP in 2002-03.